



GP 1762

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

APPLICANTS: PETER BOLDUAN  
SERIAL NO.: 09/823,778 GROUP: 1762  
FILED: MARCH 30, 2001  
FOR: FILTER DEVICE AND PROCESS

*AS*  
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**TC 1700**

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

BOX NON-FEE AMENDMENT  
Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

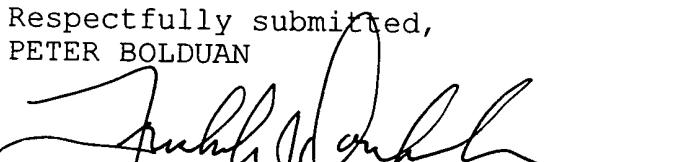
Sir:

Applicant wishes to bring to the attention of the Patent Examiner the 15 citations listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 and attached thereto. These documents were cited during an opposition against the corresponding German patent.

A description of the relevance of the documents for filing in an Information Disclosure Statement is also enclosed.

Because this Supplemental IDS is being filed before a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that no fee is required. However, if a fee should be required for this Supplemental IDS, the Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks is hereby authorized to charge any required fee, or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-2468.

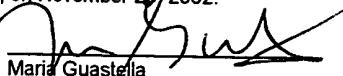
Respectfully submitted,  
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Enclosures: 1. Form PTO-1449  
2. 15 documents  
3. Description of the relevance of documents

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on November 20, 2002.

  
Maria Guastella

**Relevance of the documents for filing in an Information Disclosure Statement:****- WO 99/15260**

This document relates to a method for separating mixtures of substances using a material which is pervious to said substances. The use of this material for separating substances comprises briefly applying a voltage on the material, which substantially increases the efficiency of substance separation methods such micro-filtration or ultra-filtration. The material used as a membrane can be purified in different ways by applying a voltage thereto, the separation capacity being thus increased while providing an even cleaning of the membrane. The material used as a membrane can also be heated by applying a voltage thereto so as to increase the transfer of matter through the membrane. This method can be used for separating substances in various gas or liquid mixtures as well as in solutions.

The subject matter of claim 1 differs from this known prior art in that the WO 99/15260 does not show a ceramic membrane filter element which is electrically connected with at least one electrical conductor and is grounded via the electrical conductor.

**- WO 99/1562**

This document relates to a permeable composite material, a method for producing said composite material, and the use of the composite material. The composite material contains essentially a porous, permeable support, another constituent having been solidified on and in said support. Said other constituent essentially contains metallic compounds with elements of the third to the sixth main group. This document does not address the problem of grounding a ceramic membrane filter element via at least one electrical conductor.

- *Elektrizitätslehre, Robert Wichard Pohl, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1967;*
- *Grimsehls Lehrbuch der Physik, B.G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1938;*
- *Lexikon der Physik, Frank'sche Verlagshandlung, Stuttgart, 1969*

These documents concern only basic features of grounding electrical devices.

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*- DE 694 00 874 T2*

This European Patent describes a process for manufacturing ceramic membranes. Grounding of these membranes is not disclosed.

*- JP 64-90004*

This Japanese Patent discloses filter elements which are grounded. In contrast to the invention said filter elements are not made of ceramic materials. The known filter elements consist of membranes which are built up of hollow fibers.

*- DE 42 23 181*

This document concerns a process for ultra-filtration of fluids in the field of electro paint recovery. This document does not show grounding of ceramic filter elements.

*- DE 43 08 380 A1*

This document shows a system for micro-filtration of high abrasive media like fluids used for electro painting. The filter elements used for micro-filtration are made of ceramic materials but they are not designated for being grounded.

*- DE 44 24 719 A1*

This document discloses a porous filter element which is laminated with carbon particles. The carbon particles invest the filter element with antistatic features.

*- DE 199 31 261 A1*

This document concerns a filter device to be connected to a conduit for filtration of varnishes. Although grounding of ceramic filter elements is disclosed it has to be stated that the DE 199 31 261 A1 is published after the filing date of the corresponding German Patent.

*- DE 30 30 097*

This document shows a filter element which consists of a number of membrane filter tubes showing selective permeability. The filter tubes are connected with at least one electrical conductor and are grounded via the electrical conductor. But the filter elements are not made of ceramic materials.

*- DE 41 34 233 C1*

This patent shows a ceramic filter element used for filtration of liquids and gases. The subject matter of this patent does not disclose grounding of the filter element.

*- DE 35 19 620 A1*

This document concerns only basic features of diffusion of liquid components through porous ceramic filter elements. The grounding of ceramic filter elements is not disclosed.